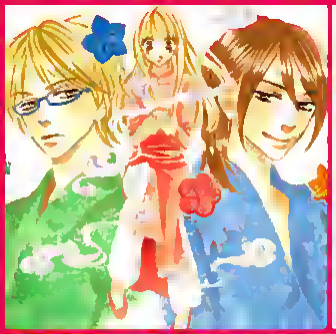

Last Notes - Chapter 9

by Sakurakouji Kaneko

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http://shoujosense.com/

IT SEEMS... I'VE FALLEN
IN LOVE WITH AKI
IT UNFOLDS NOW! A FULL-COLOR COVER!
THESE FEELINGS CANNOT BE STOPPED ANYMORE!
LAST NOTES
SAKURAKOUJI KANOKO

SAKURAKOUJI KANOKO

Sakurakouji Kanoko Presents

世にも香しき恋物語♥

えみるの心にしんしんと降り積もる、今、まで知らなかった初めての気持ち。

AN AROMATIC LOVE STORY THAT SPREADS ACROSS THE WORLD

FALLING INTO A PILE ON EMILY-CHAN'S HEART

A FEELING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN EXPERIENCED BEFORE

LIKE SAD FEELINGS THAT CAN BE EASILY TRIGGERED

それは、触れれば壊れてしまいそうに切なくて

でももう消してしまうことはできなくて。

BUT CAN NO LONGER DISAPPEAR

連載第9回

巻頭カラー

CHAPTER 9'S FULL-COLOR COVER

ラストノーツ LAST NOTES

●FCラストノーツ❶大ヒット御礼発売中です!! 詳しくは4Pへ!!

THE NITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE SELLS "ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE" THAT SUMMONS DECEASED PEOPLE WHEN LIT. HERE LIVE THE SHOPKEEPERS AKI AND HARU AND THE HOMELESS GIRL, EMIRU-CHAN. EMIRU-CHAN, WHO BEGAN TO BE MORE AWARE OF AKI, HEARD THAT HE GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE FROM MIHIRO. THE REASON WHY AKI IS KIND TO HER IS BECAUSE THEY SHARED A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE. AFTER KNOWING THIS, EMIRU-CHAN SOMEHOW FELT SAD. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE BELIEVES THAT AKI'S KINDNESS TOWARDS MIHIRO IS DIFFERENT.
EMIRU-CHAN CRIED WHEN SHE FOUND OUT THE PERSON WHO AKI LIKES IS MIHIRO. SHE ALSO REALIZED THE REASON SHE WAS BEHAVING LIKE THIS WAS BECAUSE SHE HAD COME TO LIKE AKI...?!

RECAP

CHARACTERS

MIHIRO
AKI'S OLD FRIEND. BROUGHT UP AT AN ORPHANAGE ALONG WITH AKI.

NITOU HARUOMI -HARU-
FIRST YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENT. THE OTHER SHOPKEEPER OF NITOUKOUDOU, BRANCH STORE. LOVES MONEY.

NITOU CHIAKI -AKI-
THIRD YEAR HIGH SCHOOLER (REPEATED) NITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE'S SHOPKEEPER. HAS A SENSITIVE NOSE.

GOSHIMA EMIRU
FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOLER. A BEAUTY WHO LIVES WITH AKI AND HARU. HOMELESS.

SFX: OPEN'S DOOR
EH?
BE-CAUSE I CAN GO TO SCHOOL BY MYSELF ALREADY!
EMIRU-CHAN!
...
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID I DO SOME-THING?
LATELY
EMIRU-CHAN'S BEEN AVOIDING ME...

He still hasn't realized...
NO, IT'S NOTHING
IS IT BECAUSE I SNIFFED HER TOO MUCH?
WHAT?
YOU...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
Pant
Pant
Pant
Shoujo Sense

Since i realized that my feelings for Aki were love,
I've been feeling like I'm swimming but my feet won't move
It's been like this, but yesterday,
when I realized he was sleeping beside me,

I can't fall asleep
The touch of his hand...
I can still feel his warmth...
Because he doesn't think of me that way...
That's why he acts like this...
KYAA!
UM
EH?
AKI...!
SORRY, I WAS TOO SLEEPY
I CAN'T FACE HIM TODAY EITHER
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE MUST THINK THAT I'M REALLY WEIRD...

LISTEN
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, RIGHT?
SUDDENLY TELLING ME SUCH AN UNBELIEVABLE SECRET
LIKE WE'RE STILL GOOD FRIENDS
LISTENING TO YOU TALK ABOUT BORING LITTLE THINGS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR CRUSH!
I'm friends with Aki
Huh?!
IT'S NOT 'LIKE FRIENDS' WE REALLY ARE FRIENDS, NANA!
AND THIS ISN'T SOME BORING LITTLE THING!
ARGH! DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!!
I TOLD YOU IT'S BETTER TO CONFESS SOON,
BECAUSE IT SEEMS AKI-SENPAI LIKES YOU, TOO
JUST STEAL HIM AWAY
FROM THAT MIHIRO WOMAN!

The two of them grew up in the same orphanage
There's no space for me to butt in
ALL RIGHT!
THEN THIS IS THE END OF THE TROUBLESOME LOVE CONSULTATION!
THAT KIND OF THING
I CAN'T DO IT...
Actually, I've been thinking it's about time I leave that house
but I still don't want to let go of the place
where I can be closer to Aki than Mihiro-san
A NEWBIE LIKE ME
I WOULD DEFINITELY DROWN IF I JUMPED INTO THE TORRENT OF LOVE
IF YOU DROWN, LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER AGAIN
In the end, I behaved like that
I'm such an idiot...

Putting love aside,
I've been avoiding contact with the others up until now
so much that I can't even remember how to breathe
HEY,

HAVE YOU PREPARED YOUR THINGS FOR TOMORROW?
PREPARE WHAT?
WE'RE ONLY STAYING FOR A NIGHT SO I'LL JUST PUT A CLEAN PAIR OF UNDERWEAR IN MY POCKET
IS A BANANA CONSIDERED A SNACK?
NEVER MIND.
AND WE DON'T NEED SNACKS!
Tomorrow I'll be going back to the village I grew up in
Because the snow melted,
I can finally clean up the remains of my collapsed house
WE'RE NOT GOING THERE TO JUST CLEAN UP THE PLACE
OUR AIM IS THAT, AKI
I KNOW
WE'RE GOING TO SEARCH FOR CLUES AS TO WHETHER OR NOT JII-SAN LEFT ANYTHING RELATED TO THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE
THAT'S WHY I'M ALSO BRINGING OTHER CLOTHES ON TOP OF UNDERWEAR
Because you sweat easily

It's like a vacation...
I'm
really happy...
PHONE
IT'S MIHIRO
My heart won't stop racing
We're going to spend more time together than usual
MIHIRO FAINTED?!
YES?
WHAT?
EH?
AH?
YES, THAT'S ME

I GOT IT, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
WHY...
WH-WHAT HAP-PENED...?
MIHIRO'S BOYFRIEND CALLED
MIHIRO'S BEEN HOS-PITALIZED
I'M GOING
BUT IT'S ALREADY SO LATE...
SORRY
I CAN'T GO TO-MORROW
I'M REALLY SORRY!
Step
Step
Open
BAM!

AH,
YES
ONLY THE TWO OF US WILL BE GOING TO-MORROW
EH
...THAT MEANS
...

A celebrity?
Who's that?
EVERYONE'S LOOKING OVER WHEN I'M WITH EMIRU-CHAN
EH!
TO-
TODAY'S CLOTHES
I WORE THEM BECAUSE HARU BOUGHT THEM FOR ME
I thought they wouldn't look that strange...
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY
OUTBOUND SHINKANSEN

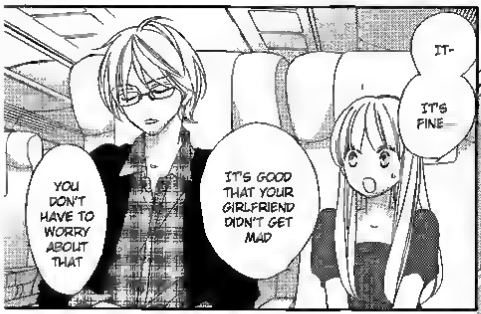
IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD
NI-
TOU-
KUN!
♡
Ehehe
I CAME
SUZUKI?
WHY ARE YOU HERE...
I SAW THAT YOU BOUGHT TICKETS FOR THE SHINKANSEN.
SO I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A SURPRISE SEND-OFF
ARE YOU HAPPY? ARE YOU HAPPY?
...VERY HAPPY
AH
THIS PERSON IS MY GIRL-FRIEND.
When did he get one?!

WHO'S THIS GIRL?!
So cute
YOU'RE SO MEAN!
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING ON A TRIP WITH YOUR BROTHER!
BUT NITOU-KUN, YOU'RE TREATING ME SO COLDLY
ISN'T THIS THE FIRST WEEKEND AFTER WE STARTED
CAN'T YOU TAKE ME SOMEWHERE TO HAVE FUN?
Is is that so...
CALM
I'M MEETING UP WITH HIM LATER
THIS GIRL IS AKI'S GIRLFRIEND (LYING)
AND HERE ALL I THINK ABOUT IS NITOU-KUN~

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE LEAVE
YOU HAVE TO DRIVE, OKAY?
NITOU-KUN OWNS A PORSCHE RIGHT?

I SUPPOSE
YAY~!
LET'S GO TO SOMEWHERE SUZUKI LIKES WHEN I'M BACK
SORRY

Have a safe trip


YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
IT'S GOOD THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND DIDN'T GET MAD
IT-
IT'S FINE—

SORRY
FOR MAKING YOU LISTEN TO THAT

While for me,
I'm so easily swayed by my feelings...
YOU COULD STAY CALM IN FRONT OF THE PERSON YOU LIKE...
YOU'RE AMAZING,
HARU
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS ALL ALONG
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH NUMBERS
ALL THE TIME
...UM
I HEARD HARU CHANGES GIRLFRIENDS ALL THE TIME
AS THE NUMBER GOES UP
YOU'D EVENTUALLY BECOME A NATURAL AT IT, RIGHT...

IS THAT SO...
LOVE DIFFERS FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
EVEN IF THERE'S AN IDEAL TYPE OF PERSON YOU WANT TO BECOME,
IT'S STILL IMPOSSIBLE TO REMAIN LIKE THAT FOREVER
I SEE.
BUT FOR ME, I JUST FOLLOW MY HEART WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LIKE THIS
I've finally
come to an under-standing

I'm simply
enslaved
by love.
And while
feeling
confused,
I will continue to
be pulled along
by a heart I
cannot control.

ALL THE BELONGINGS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT ALREADY
I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T ASK ABOUT IT BACK THEN
IT'S NOT EMIRU-CHAN'S FAULT
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING RELATED TO ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE IN THERE
ARE THESE JII-SAN'S BELONGINGS?
LET'S SEND THESE BACK TO TOKYO FIRST

WHAT ABOUT THOSE?
THEY'RE MINE
PLEASE THROW EVERYTHING AWAY
—IS THAT REALLY OKAY?
MM
AH EXCEPT THIS
THIS COTTON ROBE IS VERY WARM
THROW IT AWAY

I DON'T KNOW THE CODE
IT'S NOT JII-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY
YOU CAN'T OPEN IT?
WHAT ABOUT THAT SAFE?
HOW ABOUT EMIRI-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY?
EH?
AH
IT OPENED!
BANK BOOK AND STAMP
AH..
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING ELSE INSIDE
THIS... IS THE DEED FOR THE LAND

...ANTI-SPIRIT IN-CENSE!
...
THERE ARE ONLY TWO TO THREE STICKS LEFT, THOUGH..
AND THE OTHERS?
WHERE ARE THE NOTES THAT HAVE THE ORIGIN OR MANU-FACTURE METHOD WRITTEN?!
ARE THERE NONE...?

This is
the last anti-spirit incense...?
THERE ARE ONLY THESE?
JII-SAN...!

YOU'RE THE TWO CUSTOMERS WHO BOOKED A ROOM, RIGHT?
FAMILY HOTEL
PLEASE COME IN
OH MY, WHAT DO WE DO?
TODAY'S ROOMS ARE ALL FULL...
EMIRU-CHAN, I'LL GO CHECK OTHER HOTELS..
RATHER THAN SAYING TWO PEOPLE...
I THOUGHT I SAID I WANTED TWO ROOMS...
EH!
THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE YOU CAN STAY AROUND HERE...
HARU

I DON'T MIND
ISN'T IT JUST LIKE LIVING TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE IN TOKYO?
EVEN SO.
No this is different.
You have to turn around when I change, okay?
Oh my are you here on a vacation with your step-sister?
It's not like that!
It frustrates me that
she has no sense of danger at all...
A negative response that closes the conversation

If Aki was here,
she wouldn't have been able to show such an expression..
HARU
MM?
IT'S MY OWN PROBLEM.
BUT YOU HELPED ME A LOT SO I'M REALLY GRATEFUL
AH, NO WORRIES
IN THE END YOU BROUGHT THAT ROBE ALONG
ONLY THIS~
YOU THREW AWAY EVERYTHING ELSE
IS IT REALLY OKAY?

MOST OF THE THINGS WERE DRENCHED BY THE SNOW
THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN USED AGAIN ANYWAY
I'LL JUST GET NEW ONES
THAT VILLAGE
AND THE PAST
YOU REALLY LET GO OF THEM
UNLIKE AKI.
EMIRU-CHAN'S REALLY STRONG-WILLED.
...YOU'RE RATHER OPTIMISTIC
I HEARD THAT AKI IS ADOPTED
MIHIRO TOLD YOU, RIGHT?
Well that's fine.

AKI AND MIHIRO-SAN GREW UP IN THE SAME ORPHANAGE, RIGHT?
MM
MY PARENTS SAID THEY WANTED TO ADOPT A CHILD
AND BROUGHT ME ALONG AS WELL
I MET AKI FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE
HE WAS SMILING
THAT GUY COULD STILL SMILE
BUT IT WAS FULL OF FLAWS
LIKE HE WASN'T ABANDONED BY HIS PARENTS
THOUGH IT SEEMS I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICED IT

DIDN'T AKI GET MAD AT THOSE PEOPLE WHO IGNORED EMIRU-CHAN?
AND HE BROUGHT BACK HOME-LESS KITTENS, TOO
UNDERNEATH THAT SMILE OF HIS
IS DARKNESS THAT CANNOT BE WIPED AWAY

I
AM NOT AS STRONG AS YOU THINK I AM
HE CANNOT LET GO OF HIS PAST LIKE EMIRU-CHAN
I ALSO HAVE A DARK SIDE,
BECAUSE
I'M TOO SCARED TO FACE IT
I CAN ONLY TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT...
SFX: CLENCHES

BUT AKI HAS BEEN TRYING HIS HARDEST TO CONTROL HIS DARK SIDE TO LIVE ON
AKI IS STRONGER THAN ME

HAVEN'T YOU COME TO UNDERSTAND AKI MORE THAN ME?
EH—
—YOU'VE REALLY BEEN WATCHING AKI CLOSELY
NO WAY, THAT'S NOT TRUE...
HOW CAN THAT BE.
HOW-
AH,
AKI SENT A MESSAGE
MIHIRO'S ALL RIGHT, THAT'S GREAT
AKI SAID
AS AN APOLOGY FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO COME
HE'LL PREPARE DINNER AND WAIT FOR US TOMORROW NIGHT
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT

AS AN APOLOGY,
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA.
HAS AKI MADE DINNER BEFORE...

AN UNEXPECTED.. KISS!!
TO BE CONTINUED
THE NEXT CHAPTER UNFOLDS SOON!